



STATE ADVISORY GROUP (SAG) MEETING

January 10, 2022
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 Held Via Videoconference

MINUTES

Participating Members:

Kara Aanenson
 Jeffrey Breslin
 Sgt. Kathy Estrada
 Michelle L. Farr
 Eric Ford
 Derrell Frazier
 Kya Hector
 Lynette Holmes
 Joe Rossow
 Dr. Shameka Stanford
 Dr. Kenneth Waters
 Jillian White
 Laura Wilt

Staff:

Jessica Wheeler
 Mary Abraham
 Christina Drushel-Williams
 Carly Gayda
 Bill Harper
 Chris Miele

Guests:

Erin Brock, Public Justice Center
 Renuka Rege, Public Justice Center

I. Welcome & Roll Call

Chris Miele called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

II. Chair's Remarks

Eric Ford, Chair, opened the meeting with an appeal for members to consider their role on the State Advisory Group and their impact as practitioners and agents of change in the juvenile justice system. Mr. Ford summarized the SAG's upcoming events and ongoing endeavors, and encouraged participation from members while inviting them to contact him directly to suggest revisions or offer new ideas and initiatives.

III. JJAC / JSMP Grantee Presentation: *Public Justice Center's Education Stability Project.*

Recommended by the SAG for full funding, the Public Justice Center received a \$54,630 grant award from the Office in FY22. The program is primarily focused on reducing or eliminating school pushout, which is defined as any practice that contributes to students prematurely leaving the school environment or dropping out of high school. The Education Stability Project works to address school pushout using a three-pronged approach: 1) legal representation (free) for students in school discipline cases, 2) outreach and education for students, parents, and family service providers on students' rights in school discipline proceedings, and 3) systemic advocacy to reform policies and practices that contribute to school pushout. For more information about school pushout and the Education Stability Initiative, please review the attached presentation slides or contact Monisha Cherayil - cherayilm@publicjustice.org.

IV. OJJDP Training Debrief

Mr. Harper provided members with an overview of the training provided by Program Managers from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) on December 13, 2021. The OJJDP discussed the Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018 (JJRA) "interest of justice requirement" for youth charged as adults. The JJRA requires not later than three years after the enactment of the JJRA. (beginning on December 21, 2021), that states apply the core protections to youth charged as adults. Below are some highlights from the training:

- Juveniles charged as adults must be removed from adult jails and facilities unless a judge orders that continued detention in an adult facility is in the "interest of justice" (IOJ).
- A hearing must be held for youth charged as adults every 30 days and up to 180 days for continued placement in the adult jail unless a child expressly waives this provision.
- At 180 days a "good cause" hearing must be held to continue placement in the adult jail.
- Mr. Harper began monitoring for the IOJ requirement on December 21, 2021, for all youth placed in an adult jail.
- The 6-hour exception will apply for youth charged as adults held in an adult jail.
- Funding provided under the requirement will be tied to the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offender (DSO) core requirement.

Mr. Harper has asked the OJJDP for additional guidance on the “interest of justice requirement” in order to be in compliance with the JJRA.

V. Old / New Business

A. *FY23 NOFA Workgroup* - Chris Miele described the planned agenda for the FY23 NOFA Workgroup, and encouraged members to express their interest by completing the scheduling poll that was recently sent. Members will convene in mid-February to complete a debrief of the FY22 NOFA, review the current slate of JJAC/JSMR awards, review the 2021-2023 Three-Year Plan, and propose revisions to the FY23 NOFA and subsequent award plan.

B. *Agency Updates*

- Department of Juvenile Services (DJS) - Lynette Holmes provided an update on COVID-19 impacts to youth and frontline staff. To address staff shortages in state-owned placement and detention facilities, the Department has resorted to the utilization of community case management specialists previously certified to work in facilities. Ms. Holmes also announced the installation of Kimberly Pogue as the first superintendent of the Juvenile Services Education Program (JSEP). To track the progress of JSEP and access school board meetings and minutes, access the Juvenile Services Education Board and Program webpage here:
<https://djs.maryland.gov/Pages/about-us/JESP.aspx>
- Department of Human Services (DHS) - Michelle Farr provided the following DHS 2021 highlights after the meetin:
 - a) *Child Protective Services/Adult Services Hotline* - Maryland implemented a statewide hotline for callers to report abuse or neglect concerns to Child Protective Services (CPS) and Adult Protective Services (APS) using a standard number, 1-800-91PREVENT. The hotline features dedicated lines for Spanish callers, a standard message offering options for CPS, APS, and other services, and notifications when callers are on hold. The hotline system gives screeners the ability to answer calls from their computer, to view the number of calls in queue and wait times, to speed dial and transfer calls to other jurisdictions, and to request supervisor assistance. The hotline also enables supervisors to monitor calls, wait times, and queues, and to collect data on call volume, length of calls, and caller ID.
 - b) *Center for Excellence (CfE)* - Maryland DHS Social Services Administration (SSA), in partnership with the University of Maryland Institute for Innovation, is the only state awarded a four year, \$8 million grant by the Administration of Children and Families, Children’s Bureau to fund one national Center for Excellence (CfE) in Foster Family Development. The CfE will implement a model program for the selection, development and support of resource families who will work in close collaboration with birth families to preserve and nurture critical parent-child relationships and support reunification. Resource parents participating in the

program will be prepared and supported in providing enhanced reunification and stability supports to birth families as well as enhanced stability and wellbeing supports to children/youth transitioning out of congregate care. Five local departments of social services were selected as CfE sites and will implement the CfE model in their local jurisdictions. The selected CfE sites are Baltimore County, Carroll County, Frederick County, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County.

- c) *Child, Juvenile, Adult Management System (CJAMS)* - CJAMS is a cloud-based and secured application for collaborative use across the State of Maryland for human services. Its intentions as a technology innovator on the part of the State is to support its workers of social services but allow them to help the most vulnerable children and adults, those in need of basic human services, and providers. Achievements that occurred over 2021 include some of the following: increased focus on developing quality and accurate reports within CJAMS (Qlik), such as the Milestones & LJ Decree reports, which help the 24 local departments of social services (LDSS) maintain and improve their work with various families.

VI. Roundtable and Announcements

- A. The Emerging Leaders Committee is proud to present the Youth Justice Open Mic Discussion Series; a forum for youth leaders to share their experiences with and solutions for changing the youth justice system. Participants will have the opportunity to share their lived experiences with the youth justice system and help develop solutions for change. Participants will also learn more about the work of the Emerging Leaders Committee, the State Advisory Group on Juvenile Justice, and how youth leaders can take action. The Open Mic Discussion Series will be virtual and meet monthly on the 3rd Wednesday from 5:00 - 6:30 pm to discuss the 4 priority areas of the State Advisory Group. The dates and discussion topics are:

- January 19, 2022: Positive youth Development Practices
- February 16, 2022: Diversion Programs and Practices
- March 16, 2022: Alternative to Incarceration
- April 20, 2022: Community-Based Programs and Services

Please share this information with organizations and leaders who may be interested and encourage and support your youth leaders to participate, and [register here](#).

VII. Subcommittee Work Sessions

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. to allow members and staff to reconvene in small groups for discussion of subcommittee progress and goals for 2022. Their reports will be included with the March 2022 Consent Agenda Summary.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 7, 2022, 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.